(b) whether it is a fact that most of the LPG imported by private parties is being sold for commercial/industrial users; if so, what is the percentage of commercial and domestic users in the first six months of this year and what is the number of domestic users who have been given LPG connections by private marketeers so far;

(c) what is the price per tonne charged by PSU undertakings for LPG from commercial/ industrial users and what is the price charged by the private importers and whether because of the pricing system PSUs system have been at a disadvantage; and

(d) what is the present indegenous production level of LPG and what is the projected production for 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHRAMA): (a); Upto the end of June, 1994, the LPG imported by the Parallel Marketeers is as.follows: Bulk— 19.3 TMT Packed — 5000 Cylinders of 11 kg. capacity.While the bulk LPG has been imported by using the facilities of Public Sector Oil Companies provided on commercial terms, the packed LPG has been imported by the private parties themselves. The parallel marketeers are still in the process of developing their own report handling and storage facilities.

(b) As per reports available, major portion of the LPG imported so far by parallel marketeers has been sold to bulk consumers for industrial and commercial purposes, details of which are, however, not maintained by the Government.

(c) With effect from 1.3.1994, the ex-storage point prices (exclusive of excise duty) of LPG charged by public sector oil companies from different categories of commercial/industrial customers are as under:

(Fig. in RS/MT)

Category	Essential	Non-essential	Exempted
Bulk LPG	10164	11601	4989
Packed LPG	11443	12443	5309

The products under p irallel marketing system are sold at market determined prices, the details of which are not maintained by the Government. There is no disadvantage to the public sector undertakings in the marketing of LPG on account of the parallel marketing system, (d) Indegeneous production of LPG in 199394 was about 2699 TMT (Prov.) and estimated production in 199495 is about 2516 TMT

Supply of LPG to Rural Areas

3980. CHAUDHARYHARMOHAN SINGH: SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the distribution area of a gas agency including the rural areas covered by it;

(b) whether Government are aware that LPG agency owuers refuse to provide gas connections to the consumers in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the rules/orders issued by Government in ths regard to the gas agencies; and

(d) the concrete steps taken by Government to obviate such irregularity'.'

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) Normally the distribution area of an LPG distributor is within the municipal limits. However, in cases of nonviable distributors and those located in hill markets, area of operation is extended tothc rural areas also to make the distributorships viable.

(b) and (c) Owing to restricted availability of the product, marketing of LPG in the rural areas of the country in general has not been considered so far.

(d) Plans have been drawn by the Industry to set up additional refineries and import facilities for augmenting the supplies of LPG to cover more areas. Besides, Government has also permitted private marketeers to import LPG. These steps are expected to improve the availability'of LPG from 1997-98 onwards, which will enable marketing of LPG in rural areas as well.